



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

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***** **PRESS RELEASE** *****

October 21, 2004

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**127! RHODE ISLAND MUSEUMS, ARTS & CULTURE CENTERS,
AND HISTORIC SITES OFFER FREE ADMISSION FOR
“SAVE OUR HERITAGE” STATEWIDE OPEN HOUSE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24!**

A TOTAL OF 127 museums, cultural art centers, and historic sites from every city and town
in Rhode Island will open their doors to the public FREE OF CHARGE on Sunday, October 24.

The “Save Our Heritage” Statewide Open House has three goals: 1) to showcase Rhode Island’s remarkable historic places; 2) to demonstrate the impact of State Preservation Grants; and 3) to inform voters about three bond issues on the November ballot--Question #11 (Historic Preservation and Heritage Bonds), Question #6 (Cranston Street Armory Bonds), and Question #12 (Rehabilitation of State Owned Facilities Bonds).

The “Save Our Heritage” Statewide Open House offers a unique opportunity for all Rhode Islanders to sample our state’s many historic resources. Visitors can discover rarely-open buildings like the majestic Cranston Street Armory (1907) in Providence and the Escoheag Advent Christian Church (1870), recently acquired by the West Greenwich Land Trust. Or they can join special events like the “Warren Walkabout” or the six “Arts and Architecture” walking tours in Bristol, Kingston Village, Downtown Providence, Providence’s Benefit Street, Westerly, and Woonsocket. Visit some of Rhode Island's oldest historic buildings, like two "stone-enders" in Lincoln—the Eleazer Arnold House (1687) and the Valentine Whitman House (1694). Or tour one of the state's biggest historic buildings, Fort Adams, which encloses 6.5 acres inside its walls.

The "Save Our Heritage" Statewide Open House also invites visitors to explore important historic landscapes, like Blithewold's Gardens and Arboretum in Bristol and a trio of farms—Casey Farm in North Kingstown, Coggeshall Farm in Bristol, and Dame Farm in Johnston. Among the more unusual building types are armories (nine), lighthouses (four), windmills (two), carousels (two), and one gasometer! One what? Built in 1852 to hold gas for the Providence Gas Company, the Atlantic-Delaine Gasometer is now being renovated by the Hive Archive, an arts center in the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence.

The current State Preservation Grant program was created after voters approved a bond issue in 2002. The competitive grant program provides \$3 million (available in two \$1.5 million grant rounds in 2003 and 2004) for the capital preservation of museums and cultural art centers. In 2003, twenty-six sites were awarded State Preservation Grants to fund “bricks-and-mortar” work, and you can visit them all. For example, learn about historic paint analysis and restoration at the Maxwell House in Warren (1752-56). Mind the scaffolding as the façade of AS220/Perishable Theatre (1927) gets a facelift in Downtown Providence. Or explore recently completed projects like the dramatic overhaul of Southeast Light (1875) on Block Island and the restoration of the belltower atop the Bridgeton School (c. 1896) in Burrillville. Forty-six of the participating Open House sites have applied for grant funding in 2004.

Hours and special tours vary. Look for an up-to-date list of sites on the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission website (www.preservation.ri.gov).

(continued on next page with list of sites and tours)

10/24 "SAVE OUR HERITAGE" STATEWIDE OPEN HOUSE TOURS AND SITES

NOTE: List is updated as of 10/21. Exact hours are subject to change.

Check www.preservation.ri.gov to confirm

BARRINGTON

Barrington Public Library/Barrington Preservation Society Museum

281 County Rd.

1pm – 5pm

247-1920, www.barringtonlibrary.org

BLOCK ISLAND

Block Island Historical Society

Corner of Old Town Rd. & Ocean Ave.

10am - 1pm

Southeast Lighthouse

122 Mohegan Trail

10am - 1pm

466-5009

BRISTOL

Arts & Architecture—Bristol Tour

Discover Bristol's distinctive architecture, and visit State Preservation Grant properties and other historic sites.

Self-guided tour maps are available at all Bristol sites.

Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum

101 Ferry Rd (Rt. 114)

12pm – 4pm

253-2707, www.blithewold.org

Bristol Historical & Preservation Society

48 Court St.

2pm- 5pm; See also A & A—Downtown Bristol Tour

253-7223

Bristol Statehouse

240 High St.

12pm – 5pm with 12:30pm costumed presentation on history of Bristol Statehouse and 2pm Symposium on the Separation of Powers (with Phil West, Sheldon Whitehouse and Carl Bogus); See also A & A Downtown Bristol Tour

253-0015, www.bristolstatehouse.org

Bristol Train of Artillery

135 State St.

2pm – 4pm; See also A & A Downtown Bristol Tour

www.rhodeislandarmories.org

Coggeshall Farm Museum

Poppasquash Rd., adjacent to Colt State Park

10am – 6pm

253-9062

Herreshoff Marine Museum

One Burnside Street

10am – 5pm; See also A & A—Downtown Bristol Tour

253-5000, www.herreshoff.org

Linden Place

500 Hope St.

11am - 3pm; See also A & A—Downtown Bristol Tour

253-0390, www.lindenplace.org

Mount Hope Farm

250 Metacom Ave

12pm – 5pm

254-1745, www.mounthopecfarm.com

Pastime Theater

91 Bradford St

10am - 3pm; See also A & A—Downtown Bristol Tour

253-3139, www.thepastime.org

BURRILLVILLE

Bridgeton School - Burrillville Historical & Preservation Society

16 Laurel Hill Ave.

12pm - 5pm

568-8534, www.bhps.org

CENTRAL FALLS

Lysander and Susan Flagg Museum

209 Central St.
1pm – 3pm
727-7440

CHARLESTOWN

District #2 Schoolhouse - Charlestown Historical Society

4417 Old Post Rd (behind the library)
10am to 12pm
364-6926

COVENTRY

Paine House Museum

7 Station St.
1pm - 4pm
826-0021, hometown.aol.com/painehousemuseum/myhomepage/index

Read Schoolhouse

1670 Flat River Road
2pm – 4pm

CRANSTON

Center General and Building #79

Pastore Center, Howard Ave. near Pontiac Ave.
12pm – 3pm: Tour two facilities—one prior to renovation, one with renovations completed.
222-8216

Govr. Sprague Mansion

1351 Cranston St.
1pm – 3pm
944-9226, www.cranstonhistoricalsociety.org

Joy Homestead

156 Scituate Ave.
1pm – 3pm
944-9226, www.cranstonhistoricalsociety.org

CUMBERLAND

Cumberland Public Library

1464 Diamond Hill Rd.
1pm - 4pm
333-2552, www.cumberlandlibrary.org

EAST GREENWICH

Briggs-Boesch Farm

830 South Rd
1pm – 5pm: Ongoing events include tours of trails and Community Supported Agriculture farm; meet the farmers; open house; displays from RI Community Farm, East Greenwich Land Trust; refreshments; and more!
886.8645, www.eastgreenwichri.com/land_trust

Kentish Guards Armory

Pierce St and Armory St.
1pm - 4pm; includes 1pm-2pm fife and drum concert and discussion
884-0305, www.rhodeislandarmories.org

New England Wireless & Steam Museum

1300 Frenchtown Road
[call for schedule]
885-0545, <http://users.ids.net/~newsm>

Varnum Memorial Armory & Military Museum

6 Main St.
1pm – 3pm
884-4110, www.varnumcontinentals.org

EAST PROVIDENCE

Crescent Park Carousel

Bullocks Point Avenue
12pm – 4pm
435-7518, www.crescentparkcarousel.com

John Hunt House

Hunts Mill Rd., off Pleasant St.
1pm - 3pm: tours include Amusement Park Office Building, Brown-Williams' Cottage, and Pump House
438-1750, www.ephist.org

EXETER

Tomaquag Indian Museum

390 Summit Rd.
10am – 3pm
539-7213

FOSTER

NEW SITE! Foster Public Library

184 Howard Hill Rd.
1pm-4pm
397-4801

Foster Town House

180 Howard Hill Rd.
12pm – 3pm
392-9200

NEW SITE! Winsor Blacksmith Shop

180 Howard Hill Rd.—rear
12pm – 3pm
392-9200

GLOCESTER

NEW HOURS! Dr. Reuben Mason House

1043 Putnam Pike
10am – 2pm
568-1866, www.glocesterheritagesociety.org

NEW SITE! Evans Schoolhouse

1145 Putnam Pike
10am – 2pm
568-1866, www.glocesterheritagesociety.org

NEW SITE! Job Armstrong Store

1181 Putnam Pike
10am – 2pm
568-1866, www.glocesterheritagesociety.org

HOPKINTON

Hopkinton Historical Association

Corner of Main St. and Town House Rd.
1pm - 4pm
337-2219

JAMESTOWN

Beavertail Lighthouse

Beavertail Rd
12pm – 3pm: Tour includes access to lighttower (only open a few times/year).
423 3270, www.beavertailight.org

JOHNSTON

Dame Farm

Snake Den State Park, Brown Ave.
12pm – 5pm; museum open; park open dawn to dusk
222-2632, www.riparks.com/damefarm

Johnston Historical Society

101 Putnam Pike
1pm - 4pm
231-3880, johnstonhistorical.homestead.com/historical.html

LINCOLN

Eleazer Arnold House

487 Great Rd.
1pm – 2:30pm
728-9696, www.historicnewengland.org

Hannaway Blacksmith Shop

669 Great Rd.
1pm - 4pm
724-1522, www.hearthsidehouse.org/hannaway

Hearthside Homestead

677 Great Rd.
1pm - 4pm
334-2209, www.hearthsidehouse.org

Saylesville Friends Meeting House

374 Great Rd.
1pm - 4pm
724-7249

Valentine Whitman House

1147 Great Rd.
1pm - 4pm
333-1100

Wilbur Kelly House

Lincoln Bikepath at Ashton Viaduct
9am - 4:30pm
333-0295

LITTLE COMPTON

Friends Meeting House

230 West Main Rd.
1pm - 4pm
635-4035, <http://users.ids.net/~ricon/lchs/>

Wilbor House Museum

548 West Main Rd.
1pm to 4pm
635-4035, <http://users.ids.net/~ricon/lchs/>

MIDDLETOWN

Boyd's Windmill

Paradise and Prospect Sts.
1pm to 3pm
849-1870, www.middletownhistory.org

Paradise School

Paradise and Prospect Sts.
1pm - 3pm
849-1870, www.middletownhistory.org

Sherman Windmill at Prescott Farm

2009 West Main Road (Rt. 114)
10am – 1pm
847-6230, www.newportrestoration.org

Whitehall Museum House

311 Berkeley Ave.
2pm – 4pm
847-7951

NARRAGANSETT

Kinney Bungalow at Sunset Farm

505 Point Judith Rd.
12pm – 5pm
788-0823, www.narragansettri.com

NEWPORT

Artillery Company of Newport

24 Clark St
[call for schedule]
846-8488, www.newportartillery.org

Fort Adams

Fort Adams State Park
10am – 4pm tours on the hour
841-0707, www.fortadams.org

International Tennis Hall of Fame

194 Bellevue Ave.
9:30am - 5pm
849-3990, www.tennisfame.org

International Yacht Restoration School

449 Thames Street
10am – 5pm
848.5777, www.iyrs.org

Museum of Newport History

Brick Market Pl
1pm – 4pm
846-0813, www.newporthistory.org

Museum of Yachting

Fort Adams State Park
10am – 5pm
847-1018, www.museumofyachting.org

Newport Art Museum

76 Bellevue Ave.
12pm – 4pm
848-8200, www.newportartmuseum.com

Newport Historical Society

82 Touro St.
1pm – 4pm
846-0813, www.newporthistory.org

Redwood Library and Athenaeum

50 Bellevue Ave.
1pm – 5pm
847-0292, www.redwoodlibrary.org

Rose Island Lighthouse, Ft Hamilton

Boats depart Bowen's Landing, Market Sq at 11am, 12:15pm, and 1:30pm. NOTE: tours are free, but boat ride to Rose Island is \$5 (normally \$14/person). Limited seating. ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. If it rains, meet at Seaman's Church Institute, 18 Market Sq., for "Rose Island Armchair Tour" (slideshow).
847-4242, www.roseislandlighthouse.org

Samuel Whitehorne Museum

416 Thames Street
12pm – 3pm; tours on the hour
847-2448, www.newportrestoration.org

Touro Synagogue

85 Touro St
10am - 5pm
847-4794, www.tourosynagogue.org

NORTH KINGSTOWN

Casey Farm

2325 Boston Neck Road
11am - 3pm
295-1030, www.historicnewengland.org

Gilbert Stuart Birthplace

815 Gilbert Stuart Rd. (between Rts. 1 and 1A)
1pm - 4pm
294-3001, www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/6365/stuart.html

Smith's Castle

55 Richard Smith Dr. off Rt. 1
12pm - 4pm
294-3521, www.smithscastle.org

NORTH PROVIDENCE

Old Town Hall

2226 Mineral Spring Ave.
2pm – 4pm
232-0900 x226, www.northprovidenceri.com

NORTH SMITHFIELD

Heritage Hall

101 Green St. Slatersville
10am – 2pm
765-1107

Little Red Schoolhouse

190 School St. Forestdale
10am – 2pm
766-1408

PAWTUCKET

Daggett House

Slater Park
2pm – 5pm
724-5748

Looff Carousel

Slater Park (enter Armistice Blvd)
11am - 5pm
728-0500 x286,

Pawtucket Armory

172 Exchange Street
1pm - 4pm
721-0723, www.arts-exchange.org

RI Watercolor Society

Slater Park
1pm – 5pm
726-1876, www.rewatercolorsociety.org

Slater Mill

67 Roosevelt Ave.
10am – 5pm
725-8638, www.slatermill.org

PORTSMOUTH

Leonard Brown House

Glen Farm, East Main Rd.
12pm – 2pm
683-9809, www.onaquidneck.com/brownhouse/

Portsmouth Historical Society

870 East Main Rd
2pm – 4pm
683-9178

PROVIDENCE

Arts & Architecture—Benefit Street Walk

Stroll Providence's mile of history with guides from the Rhode Island Historical Society, and visit State Preservation Grant properties and other historic sites.
Tours start at 2pm and 3pm from John Brown House at 52 Power St.

Arts & Architecture—Downtown Providence Tour

Take a walk downtown, and visit State Preservation Grant properties and other arts and culture sites.
Tour starts at 11am from PPAC at 220 Weybosset St.

Algonquin House/RI Indian Council

807 Broad St
12pm – 3pm: Guided tour and refreshments in the ballroom.
781-1098, www.rhodeislandindiancouncil.org

AS220/Perishable Theatre

115 Empire St
See A & A—Downtown Providence Tour
831-9327, www.as220.org

Benefit Street Arsenal

176 Benefit St.
2pm – 4pm; See also A & A—Benefit St. Walk
246-0521, www.rhodeislandarmories.org

Bomes Theater

1017 Broad St.
[call for schedule]
351-4300 x429, www.providenceri.com

Columbus Theatre

270 Broadway
1pm – 4pm: Guided tour and refreshments.
621-9660, www.columbustheatre.com

Cottage C, State Home and School

600 Mount Pleasant Ave.
10am: Gathering of residents and former staff (to register call 456-9854 or email pnolin@ric.edu); 11am – 2pm tours
456-9854, www.ric.edu/statehomeandschool

Cranston Street Armory

310 Cranston St. (parkside)
12pm – 4pm: Providence Preservation Society and West Broadway Neighborhood Association volunteers will provide behind-the-scenes tours of the Armory.
831-9344, www.savethearmory.org

Govr. Henry Lippitt House Museum

199 Hope St.
1pm – 4pm
453-0688, www.preserveri.org

Govr. Stephen Hopkins House

15 Hopkins St.
2pm – 4pm; See also A & A—Benefit St. Walk
421-0694

Hive Archive

150 Manton Ave.

12pm – 5pm: Women at Work—Hive Archive members take a break from renovation to give tours of their building, the Atlantic-Delaine Gasometer.
351-0968, www.hivearchive.org

John Brown House

52 Power St.
12pm – 4pm; See also A & A—Benefit St. Walk
273-7507, www.rihs.org

Museum of Natural History and Planetarium

Roger Williams Park
10am – 5pm
785-9457, www.osfn.org/museum/

Providence Art Club

11 Thomas St.
2pm – 4pm; See also A & A—Benefit St. Walk
331.1114, www.providenceartclub.org

Providence Black Repertory Company

276 Westminster St.
See A & A—Downtown Providence Tour
351-0353, www.blackrep.org

Providence Children's Museum

100 South St.
9am – 6pm; features "No Time to Waste:" a family comedy about recycling. Shows at 10:30am, 11:30am, 12:15pm, and 1:15pm.
273-5437, www.childrensmuseum.org

Providence Performing Arts Center

220 Weybosset St.
10am – 11am: behind the scenes tour + coffee; kick off A & A—Downtown Providence Tour at 11am
421-2997, www.ppacri.org

Rhode Island Black Heritage Society

65 Weybosset St.
See A & A—Downtown Providence Tour
751-3490, www.providenceri.com/RI_BlackHeritage

RISD Museum of Art

224 Benefit St.
10am – 5pm; See also A & A—Benefit St. Walk
454-6500; www.risd.edu/museum.cfm

Roger Williams National Memorial

282 North Main St.
9am – 4:30pm
521-7266; www.nps.gov/rowi

Russian Sub Museum

Collier Point Park (off Allens Avenue, south of the power plant)
10am - 2pm
521-3600, www.saratogamuseum.org

The Providence Athenaeum

251 Benefit St
1pm – 5pm; See also A & A—Benefit St. Walk
421-6970, www.providenceathenaeum.org

Trinity Rep's Lederer Theater

201 Washington St.
See A & A—Downtown Providence Tour
521-1100, www.trinityrep.com

VMA Arts & Cultural Center

1 Avenue of the Arts
12pm-1pm; visitors may have opportunity to watch Festival Ballet Providence rehearsing "The Widow's Broom"
272-4862

RICHMOND

Bell Schoolhouse (Richmond Historical Society)

Rts. 112 and 138
[call for schedule]
364-7507

SCITUATE

Historic Grange #39 (Scituate Preservation Society)

706 Hartford Pike
12pm-3pm

822-1929

SMITHFIELD

Smith-Appleby Museum

220 Stillwater Road

1pm – 4pm

231-0375, www.smithfieldhistory.org

SOUTH KINGSTOWN

Arts & Architecture—Kingston Village Tour

Stroll Kingston Village, and visit State Preservation Grant properties and other historic sites.

Tour starts at 1pm from the Washington County Jail (Pettaquamscutt Historical Society), 2636 Kingstown Rd.

783-1328

Courthouse Center for Arts

3481 Kingstown Road

2pm – 5pm

782-1018, www.courthousearts.org

Helme House and Pottery Shop (South County Art Association)

2587 Kingstown Rd

12pm – 2pm; See also A & A—Kingston Village

783-2195, www.southcountyart.org

Museum of Primitive Art and Culture

1058 Kingstown Rd.

1pm - 2:30pm

783-5711; www.primitiveartmuseum.org

Oliver Watson House

URI Campus: Corner of West Alumni Rd and Farm House Rd (west of the Campus Library)

1pm – 3pm

792.8296

The Washington County Jail, home of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society's library and museum

2636 Kingstown Rd.

1pm – 4pm; See also A & A—Kingston Village

783-1328, www.freewebs.com/pettaquamscutt

TIVERTON

Chase-Cory House

3908 Main Rd.

2pm – 4pm

624-2096

WARREN

A Warren Walkabout

Ongoing special events including Artists' Open Studios, trolley tours, sales, and "A Taste of Warren." Downtown Warren (near Main St. and Market Sts).

11am – 5pm (ongoing)

Federal Blues Armory and Museum

42 Baker St.

12pm – 3pm

245-4376, www.angelfire.com/ri/fedblues

Fireman's Museum

38 Baker St.

12pm – 3pm

245-4790, www.townofwarren-ri.gov

Judge Samuel Randall House

31 Baker St.

12pm – 3pm

245-0397

2nd Story Theatre

28 Market St.

11:30am and 12:30pm: Free performances of "The Heiress" (first come, first served).

247-4200, <http://2ndstorytheatre.com>

The Maxwell House

corner of Church and Water Sts.

10am – 4pm

245-0392, www.massasoithistoricalassociation.org/

WARWICK

Conimicut Point Lighthouse

Conimicut Point Park (Point Ave off Symonds Ave)

12pm – 3pm: Meet in waterfront park to hear city planner discuss Conimicut Lighthouse's history and plans for restoration.
738-2000 x6292, www.warwickri.gov

John Waterman Arnold House

25 Roger Williams Avenue
12pm – 3pm
739-5555

Knight Estate

CCRI Knight Campus (400 East Ave.) and follow signs to site
12pm – 3pm; tours at 12pm, 1pm, 2pm of estate (includes water tower, cider mill, greenhouse, chicken coop, corn crib, and stables)
333-7150, www.ccri.edu

Pawtuxet Rangers Armory

59 Remington Street
1pm – 3pm
785-1774, www.pawtuxetrangers.com

Warwick Museum of Art

3259 Post Road
12pm – 5pm; Visitors can pick up free passes for a Sunday evening (7:17pm) performance by Unexpected Company, Rhode Island's premiere improv comedy team (first come, first served).
737-1796, www.warwickmuseum.org

WEST GREENWICH

Escoheag Christian Advent Church (West Greenwich Land Trust)

195 Escoheag Hill Rd.
12pm – 2pm
397-6517

WEST WARWICK

Pawtuxet Valley Preservation and Historical Society (Old Crompton Library)

1679 Main St.
9am – 11am
821-9726, www.pvhistorian.com

WESTERLY

Arts & Architecture: Downtown Westerly Walk

Take a walk in Westerly, and visit State Preservation Grant properties and other historic sites.
Tour starts at 11:30am from Westerly Armory, corner of Railroad Ave. and Dixon St.

Babcock-Smith House

124 Granite St.
2pm – 5pm
596-5704, www.babcock-smithhouse.com

Chorus of Westerly Performance Hall

119 High St.
11am – 1pm; See also A & A—Westerly Walk
596-8663, www.chorusofwesterly.org

Old Town Hall

10 Union St.
See A & A—Westerly Walk
348-2550

Westerly Armory

Corner of Railroad Ave. and Dixon St.
10am - 1:30 pm; See also A & A—Westerly Walk
596-8554, www.westerlyarmory.com

Westerly Public Library

44 Broad St.
12pm - 4pm; See also A & A—Westerly Walk
596-2877, www.westerlylibrary.org

WOONSOCKET

Arts & Architecture: Downtown Woonsocket Walk

Walk Woonsocket, and visit historic arts and culture sites, as well as ongoing preservation projects.
Tour starts at 1pm at Stadium Theatre, 28 Monument Sq.
762-0250, www.nps.gov/blac

Museum of Work and Culture

42 South Main St
1pm – 5pm.; See also A & A—Woonsocket Walk
769-9675, www.rihs.org

St. Ann Arts and Cultural Center

84 Cumberland St

1pm – 5pm

767-3777 or 766-7415, stannartctr.org

Stadium Theatre

28 Monument Sq., Main St.

11am - 12pm; See also A & A—Woonsocket Walk

762-4545, www.stadiumtheatre.com

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